



And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

2 Timothy 2:2

ministry training network

introducing MTN

The purpose of MTN is to glorify the one true God who has revealed himself in his Son Jesus Christ by training others to make him known, who then train others to do the same.

ministry

- MTN is about ministry training, specifically geared for the local church context.
- it promotes an evangelistic ministry model as standard for local church ministry.
- it recognises that developing evangelistic ministries is not the primary task of theological colleges, and so needs to be developed prior to college.
- MTN therefore, is pre-theological college training that aims to engender a philosophy of evangelistic ministry within a potential ministry candidate.

equipping

- MTN is geared not simply towards developing evangelistic ministers but developing evangelistic ministries and evangelistic churches.
- it focuses therefore, on the key role of ministers as equippers (see Eph 4:11-12), preparing the whole church for works of service.
- it recognises that, fundamentally, healthy churches are evangelising churches: the bigger picture of evangelistic training is training across the entire life and ministries of the church.

training

- MTN recognises that this evangelistic, equipping model of ministry is best learnt through the apprenticeship of one-to-one training (see 2 Timothy 2:2)
- in the context of one-to-one training, the whole person is trained - this can be thought of as three strands: (i) personal godliness; (ii) theological reflection (iii) ministry skills.
- MTN benefits not only the trainee, but strengthens the training culture for:
 - *the trainer*, through an intensive training experience.
 - *the local church*, as the trainee becomes a focal point for developing a training culture.
 - *the Presbytery*, as neighbouring churches are spurred on to be involved in MTN and its benefits.
 - *the denomination*, through the calibre and experience of ministry candidates.

recruiting

- MTN provides a pathway for people considering training at theological college to take steps in that direction.
- by profiling and building such training into the local church context, MTN trainees, in turn become examples for (and trainers of) others heading down such a training pathway.

organisation

- MTN recognises the need for one-to-one training to be facilitated through resources such as funding and a training curriculum.
- it also recognises the need for one-to-one training to be networked with other trainers and trainees, and supported through coaching provided by experienced trainers.

MTN makes extensive use of the MINISTRY PAPERS training resource. Working through the two introductory papers: 'the ministry training church' and 'meeting one to one' will help fill out the picture outlined above. The MINISTRY PAPERS are available through Presbyterian Youth (02 8567 4700) or at www.ministrycentre.org.au.

key principles

preparing for MTN

- MTN is a two year full-time apprenticeship, based on the program in this handbook.
- to get the most out of the two year program, however, it is necessary to prepare in a number of ways especially with regard to the key relationships involved.
- for this reason, this handbook also sets out guidelines for a 'preparatory' year, on page 4.

trainee AND trainer

- in keeping with the 2 Timothy 2:2 model, the program is designed such that the trainee is always simultaneously a trainee and a trainer.
- this 'trainee and trainer' shape is reflected through the trainee meeting not only one-to-one with their trainer, but also with key others they are training-passing on their training.
- in the overall shape of the program, the 'trainee' role is to the fore in year 1, but the 'trainee as trainer' role comes more to the fore in year 2.
- an ideal one-to-one meeting will spend time on each of the 3 strands below (e.g. a 1½ hr meeting will spend 30 minutes on each of the strands).

the three strands

- personal godliness: the program emphasises daily bible reading & prayer as the key to godliness, and discussion/accountability in the training relationship in relation to this. There is also specific attention given to personal evangelism and family life.
- theological reflection: the program sets essential reading that both prepares the trainee for College and stimulates the trainer/trainee's thinking in relation to life & ministry.
- ministry skills: the program is designed to develop thinking and skills in certain core areas of ministry, as well as some elective areas. The main training resources used are the MINISTRY PAPERS, alongside other key reading.

core elective

- in the ministry skills strand of the program, there are both (i) core areas of training which all trainees undertake; & (ii) elective areas of training where trainees select from options.
- the three core areas of training are preaching, small groups, & welcoming/evangelism. Development in these areas is seen as fundamental to development for gospel ministry.
- a major elective is then selected from such ministry areas as: youth group, kids church, kids club, university ministry, men's ministry, women's ministry (this should usually be a major elective for women MTN trainees). The goal here isn't so much to do with specialization as development of leadership skills. There are opportunities for learning and growth that can only come through such sustained leadership of a ministry team.
- a minor elective(s) is selected from a range of ministry areas: e.g. music, drama, audio (Or one of the ministry areas above but in a lesser role).
- there are also some assorted tasks that round out the ministry training experience.

flexibility

- clearly, the 'core and elective' shape of the program already allows for significant flexibility in the program. Other aspects of the program, e.g. the order/timing of the program, will also need to be approached in a flexible manner.

coaching

- the trainer also is simultaneously a trainer and a trainee! - needing to be supported in their training role and to learn through the experience-through 'coaching' support. The coaching support is delivered in MTN by the Regional Co-ordinators.
- coaching the trainer is the key way MTN supports the training relationship. The focus on the annual MTN summit will be time for Regional Co-ordinators to spend with trainer/trainees. The Regional Co-ordinator will then also have regular phone and email contact with the trainer through the year.

getting ready

planning ahead

- the decision to enter a two-year pre-college ministry apprenticeship is a very significant one. Ideally, it's a decision that's made (or is already being considered) twelve months ahead.
- this twelve month period should be used to prepare for the apprenticeship in a number of ways, especially with regard to the key relationships involved.
- if, for some reason, the 'lead time' is a shorter period (e.g. 6 months), the preparatory steps below can still largely be put in place, with time-frames adapted accordingly.

meeting one-to-one

- in the preparatory year, the trainer and trainee should start meeting one-to-one on a regular basis, ideally weekly.
- the trainee should also identify at this early stage (in consultation with the trainer), who they will be training, and also commence meeting one-to-one on a regular basis, ideally weekly.
- the stronger all these relationships are when the full-time apprenticeship commences, the more fruitful it is likely to be for everyone involved.
- this commitment to regular meeting, along with some introductory reading (see below) will help everyone, especially the trainer, make the transition to the sort of time commitment involved in quality apprenticeship training.

getting started

- initially, the trainer & trainee should meet together a couple of times to work through the two introductory MINISTRY PAPERS: "the ministry training church" and "meeting one to one".
- they should then meet again (a few sessions may be needed) to work through the one-to-one planner, looking ahead to the shape of the two-year program (e.g. is the trainee leading or being apprenticed to lead a small group? which elective might be pursued?)
- broad goals should be set in each of the three strands. As these are developed and refined throughout the year, the formal apprenticeship will then commence with real purpose.

the ideal preparation

- the preparatory year reading outlined below is designed both with content & process in mind: content, in that the material is ideal for establishing an apprenticeship; & process, in that, while the reading is much lighter, it helps establish the discipline that MTN requires.

Back to Basics (S Cree & D Thurston)

aim: to develop an intergrated gospel mindset about the church and Christian living, & to ensure daily bible reading & a prayer diary is in place (studies 4 & 5) as well as personal evangelism (study 7).

Guidance & the Voice of God (P Jensen & T Payne)

aim: to think through commitment to the authority of God's Word as underpinning all ministry.

Team Torque (Peter Corney)

aim: to gain insight into team ministry and think through specific issues to do with employment, team meetings etc.

Encouragement (L Crabb)

aim: to gain understanding about people, within a gospel framework, and especially to be better equipped for meeting one-to-one.

the two year course

- the planner on the following pages enables the trainer & trainee to together develop their 'tailored' MTN program, thus owning their learning across the three strands.
- the program contains a balance of *structure* on the one hand (core elements that must be covered) and *flexibility* on the other (options regarding electives and order of completion).
- this planner needs to be filled out in outline at the start of each of the 2 years, and refined in detail each term. Working through the material below will explain how to go about this.
- MTN Regional Co-ordinators are a key resource in giving suggestions/feedback to help with this process.

personal godliness

- the main focus here is daily personal bible reading and prayer.
- using M'Cheyne's daily plan (see D.A. Carson's 'For the Love of God') - the whole Bible is read over the two years of the program.
- sufficient time needs to be set aside during the weekly one-to-one meeting to discuss progress in and issues arising from the crucial daily time with God.
- at the start of each quarter the trainer & trainee should update their one-to-one planner with specific issues of godliness to be discussed/prayed for (with special attention to family life).
- relevant articles/books might be discussed as part of this process (Regional Co-ordinators may help with suggestions here). Other reading commitments may need to be modified accordingly.
- it's also in this one-to-one context that personal evangelism should be discussed/prayed for.

theological reflection

- the main focus here is a pre-college reading program, designed to both give a taste of reading across key areas as well as developing the basic discipline of theological reading.
- each quarter has one key text (essential reading) along with suggestions for further reading (according to ability/interest of the trainee as well as other commitments in that quarter).
- since the ministry skills strand also involves reading a 'ministry' book each quarter (and some reading may also be pursued in the 'godliness' strand), the trainer and trainee will need to discuss how the term's reading will be structured/approached (e.g. serially or in parallel?)
- in one quarter of each year the set book is more focused on spirituality, to help ensure the reading component of the program is related to the other strands of godliness and ministry.
- page 6 proves a list of useful questions to consider when reading and assessing a book.

ministry skills

- the main focus here is the development of ministry skills across: the three core areas of Bible teaching and Preaching, small groups & welcoming/evangelism; one primary elective; one secondary elective; & assorted 'one-off' ministry tasks.
- the key idea here is *progress*: that the trainee is developing their ministry skills, especially in the 4 key areas, term by term across the 2 years of the program.
- the basic pattern in each area is: start with working through the relevant MINISTRY PAPER; set goals for that area across the year, including the best timing for completing the essential reading; refine goals each term.
- first work through the ministry skills planner, then the essential reading across the 2 year summary.

assessing a book

given how much reading you will be doing in the MTN program, it's worth thinking through how to approach the task of assessing a book. Have a look through the questions below as a starting point. They were primarily designed for giving book reviews in church, so depending on the nature of the book there may be additional questions you need to consider ...

- who is the author? do we know anything about the author? (often the 'blurb' on the back or inside cover of a book gives you this information)
- think about the book in broad terms:
 - (i) does the title have any special meaning (if any ...)?
 - (ii) what is the overall message of this book?
 - (iii) what are the authors' sources? (ie does s/he frequently refer to scripture, or other books, or their own experiences, or that of their churches, or theories of their own, etc)
- what was it about the book that you found encouraging, challenging, or helpful? Why? (ie. what are the positive things about this book that you would like to tell other Christians about)
- can you give us a short quote from the book that illustrates its theme, or was especially encouraging to you?
- were there any problems with this book? (such as: not helpful, boring, difficult language, thematically confusing, too long, not detailed enough, not scriptural-based, not Christ focused, etc)
- in summary who would you recommend this book to? Who would benefit from reading it? (try and be specific eg. "this book would be great to give to your young non-Christian friends because it explains the gospel clearly without jargon, and is also entertaining to read" etc)

Ministry Skills Planner

year 1

	preaching	small groups	welcoming/ evangelism	youth	optional elective	ministry experiences
ministry paper	preaching that connects	joining a small group leading a small group	welcoming personal evangelism	relevant ministry paper (youth, kid's club, kid's church, etc)	relevant ministry paper	there are a number of other ministry experiences MTN can expose you to..... use the checklist below and try to complete as many as possible across the two years
essential reading	Setting Hearts On Fire (J. Chapman)	Growth Groups (C. Marshall)	The Welcoming Church (P. Corney) Know And Tell The Gospel (J. Chapman)	No Guts No Glory (A. Stewart & E. Vaughan)	no essential reading	
ministry tasks	aim in year 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> give a NT talk, an OT talk (each to be critiqued beforehand) discuss the trainers weekly talk with trainer in one-to-one meeting identify potential preaching trainees 	aim in year 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lead a group (if not already doing so), or at least be apprenticed by an experienced group leader identify a group member who can be trained as a leader next year – start meeting one-to-one 	aim in year 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use Corney's book to review welcoming strategy (& user friendliness of church) with trainer gather/identify "mission minded" people and take them through welcoming ministry paper: form a welcoming/evangelism team 	aim in year 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use 'No Guts No Glory' to assess effectiveness of ministry identify a team member who can be trained as a key leader next year – start meeting one-to-one 	aim in year 1: gain experience in one other area of ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee of Management <input type="checkbox"/> Session <input type="checkbox"/> Presbytery <input type="checkbox"/> funeral <input type="checkbox"/> wedding <input type="checkbox"/> baptism <input type="checkbox"/> visit churches in Presbytery to explain/profile MTN
further reading/ resources over 2 years	Doing The Talk Video (J. Chapman) Speaking God's Words (P. Adam) How To Prepare A Bible Talk (SMBC Press)	Leading Better Bible Studies (R. & K. Morris)	Promoting The Gospel (J. Dickson)			Discuss with trainer how each of these can be approached with a gospel/mission mindset

Theological Reflection

quarter 1	quarter 2	quarter 3	quarter 4
<u>BIBLICAL THEOLOGY</u> According To Plan (G. Goldsworthy)	<u>PHILOSOPHY/ WORLDVIEW</u> The Universe Next Door (4 th ed.), (J. Sire)	<u>PRAYER/SPIRITUAL LIFE</u> Brothers We Are Not Professionals, (J. Piper)	<u>SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY</u> Westminster Confession Of Faith, (T. Wilkinson)

Ministry Skills Planner

year 2

	preaching	small groups	welcoming/ evangelism	youth	optional elective	ministry experiences
ministry paper	preaching that connects	joining a small group leading a small group	welcoming personal evangelism	relevant ministry paper (youth, kid's club, kid's church, etc)	relevant ministry paper	there are a number of other ministry experiences MTN can expose you to..... use the checklist below and try to complete as many as possible across the two years <input type="checkbox"/> Committee of Management <input type="checkbox"/> Session <input type="checkbox"/> Presbytery <input type="checkbox"/> funeral <input type="checkbox"/> wedding <input type="checkbox"/> baptism <input type="checkbox"/> visit churches in Presbytery to explain/profile MTN Discuss with trainer how each of these can be approached with a gospel/mission mindset
essential reading	Biblical Preaching (H. Robinson)	Building A Church Of Small Groups (B. Donahue & R. Robinson)	Mission Minded (P. Bolt) Hospitality Evangelism (K. Richards)	Changing The World Through Effective Youth Ministry (K. Moser))	no essential reading	
ministry tasks	aim in year 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> give a 3 or 4 talk series at a church camp or another church in presbytery do an evangelistic talk elsewhere in presbytery assemble a preaching group – take them through 'preaching that connects/Setting Hearts On Fire if possible 	aim in year 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> make transition to training at least one other person in the group discuss with trainer how the church can better support group leaders and help implement strategy 	aim in year 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> work through 'Mission Minded' with welcoming/evangelism team and assess strengths and weaknesses of team lead a small group through evangelistic training course (eg. Two Ways To Live, Introducing God) but also hospitality evangelism approaches) 	aim in year 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> make transition to training at least one other person in team discuss with trainer how the church can better support ministry leaders and help implement strategy 	aim in year 2: gain experience in one other area of ministry – which may be different to the year 1 optional elective	
further reading/ resources over 2 years	Doing The Talk Video (J. Chapman) Speaking God's Words (P. Adam) How To Prepare A Bible Talk (SMBC Press)	Leading Better Bible Studies (R. & K. Morris)	Promoting The Gospel (J. Dickson)			

Theological Reflection

quarter 1	quarter 2	quarter 3	quarter 4
<u>BIBLICAL THEOLOGY</u> Preaching The Whole Bible As Christian Scripture (G. Goldsworthy)	<u>Greek</u> (select text with trainer – consult QTC)	<u>PRAYER/SPIRITUAL LIFE</u> Going The Distance (P. Brain)	<u>NEW TESTAMENT BACKGROUND</u> Jesus And The Rise Of Early Christianity (P. Barnett)